

Message Text

SECRET

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 296805

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 12099 ACTION TEL AVIV JERUSALEM CAIRO
INFO STATE DEC 12.

QUOTE S E C R E T SECTO 12099

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE,CYRUS)

SUBJECT: CAIRO CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS

REF: CAIRO 21266

1. FYI: FROM REFTEL, WHICH I HAVE JUST SEEN, IT IS
OBVIOUS THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SERIOUS DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS TO BE SORTED OUT BEFORE
CAIRO MEETING OPENS WEDNESDAY. I SEE NO WAY OF OUR BEING
ABLE TO HELP TO RESOLVE THESE DIFFERENCES IN CAPITALS IN
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THE SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE ISRAELI DELEGATION AND
ATHERTON DEPART FOR CAIRO THURSDAY MORNING. GIVEN PRESSURE
WHICH WILL BE ON BOTH SIDES TO HAVE CONFERENCE OPEN ON
SCHEDULE, I THINK THE BEST TACTIC WILL BE TO LET THEM HAVE
AT EACH OTHER IN THE INFORMAL PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING WHICH
WE UNDERSTAND FROM EILTS THE EGYPTIANS PLAN TO ARRANGE.
WE HAVE SOME IDEAS ON POSSIBLE COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS WHICH

ATHERTON WILL BRING WITH HIM AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUGGEST AT APPROPRIATE TIME. END FYI.

2. IF ISRAELIS APPROACH YOU BEFORE DEPARTURE OF THEIR DELEGATION FOR OUR INTERCESSION, OR IF THEY SUGGEST DELAYING DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE UNTIL DIFFERENCES RESOLVED, YOU SHOULD SAY THE FOLLOWING: IN VIEW OF THE SHORTNESS OF TIME AND THE NEGATIVE IMPRESSION THAT WOULD BE CREATED BY ANY DELAY IN CONVENING CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF PROCEDURAL SQUABBLING, I BELIEVE THE ONLY PRACTICAL COURSE IS FOR ISRAELIS TO PROCEED TO CAIRO ONSCHEDULE. ATHERTON WILL BE DEPARTING AMMAN AT 0815 LOCAL TUESDAY AND ARRIVING CAIRO AT 10:45. WE ARE INFORMED THAT EGYPTIANS ARE PLANNING INFORMAL PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING AT WHICH ATHERTON WILL BE PREPARED TO HELP IN ANY WAY HE CAN TO RESOLVE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES OVER CONFERENCE PROCEDURE AND AGENDA, SHOULD THOSE DELEGATIONS BE UNABLE TO DO SO AND SEEK OUR ASSISTANCE. YOU MAY ALSO TELL ISRAELIS ATHERTON WILL SEEK TO MEET WITH EGYPTIANS AS SOON AS HE ARRIVES CAIRO AND SEE IF SOME OF THE PROBLEMS CAN BE SORTED OUT IN ADVANCE.

3. FOR CAIRO: PLEASE REQUEST MEETING FOR ATHERTON AND ILTS WITH EGYPTIANS AS SOON AS PRACTICAL AFTER ATHERTON'S ARRIVAL. ALSO, YOU SHOULD URGE THAT PRE-CONFERENCE, INFORMAL MEETING BE HELD TUESDAY; WEDNESDAY MORNING IS TOO LATE.

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VANCE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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